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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0791
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 0688
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHINGTON DC
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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JULY 19, 2006

JACQUELINE H. IYIELMA

Secretary/Admin This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for

SIPDIS

July 19, 2006. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

RADIKAL/EVRENSEL/ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: 24 pro-peace women aged between 40 and 75 have been sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment for undertaking actions for improving prison conditions and demanding a general amnesty. The group has been charged with making "separatist propaganda." These women had blocked a road in Diyarbakir and had displayed a banner reading "Mr. Ocalan is our political will power" on February 22, 2006.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: Sirin Bagli, an administrator at DTP provincial office of Batman, was put in custody while traveling from Batman to Diyarbakir during a road check on the ground that there was an arrest warrant against him. Bagli has been taken to the Anti-terror office of the Batman Security Directorate and his house has also been searched by police.

EVRENSEL: The newly adopted Anti-terror Bill has been put into force after being published in the official gazette. The government gave "political instructions" to the army for a cross-border operation in northern Iraq. Annual leaves for the army has been annulled and more troops and military equipment have been amassed along the border. Special Operations Team members have been deployed in city centers. Opposition parties have been supporting a cross border operation. Non-governmental Organizations expressed their reaction and urged the government to solve the problems through democratic means. Mazlumder's National President Ozkaya said that a cross-border operation would cause faults within the country while KESK -Public Employees' Union- President Tombul said an operation at Kandil Mountain in northern Iraq would not be the solution to the problem.

HURRIYET: Omer Fetah, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region Administration in northern Iraq, announced that he signed an agreement with one of the biggest Saudi Arms and Defense Products companies, Azib-Integrph, for purchasing 16 "333 Schweizer" U.S. make helicopters for the Kurdish Government for 35,455,788.- U.S. Dollars. Experts mentioned that the helicopters would be used for VIP visitors and transporting a limited number of personnel.

CUMHURİYET/ZAMAN: The Sirnak Governorate announced that jandarma units searching the countryside in Idil township found over 46 kilos of A4 explosives, 70 assault type hand grenades and fuses, and over 5000 bullets for Kalashnikov weapons. An investigation is underway, the officials said.

SABAH-GÜNEY: Because of Israel's bombing of Lebanon, a total of 14 persons -4 French, 3 Belgians, 1 Chilean, 3 Dutch, , 1 German, and 2 Danes- fleeing from Lebanon arrived at Mersin port.

YENİ SAFAK/ÜLKEDE ÖZGÜR GÜNDEM/CUMHURİYET: It has been discovered that the recent explosion which killed 5 soldiers had occurred because of a remote control bomb not because the military vehicle had passed over a mine. Finger prints of a village guard have been detected on the remote control of the device used in the incident. The village guards who have been detained are being interrogated by jandarma.

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